

NELSON CITY BIODIVERSITY COASTAL AND MARINE ACTION PLAN 2009

Links

Coastal habitats receive nutrients, sediment and contaminants from the terrestrial environment, through freshwater linkages, as well as from oceanic sources through hydrodynamic transport.

Delivers sediment, salts and nutrients to the land.

Native species share coastal marine, estuarine and freshwater habitats, and pathways for two-way migration across salt gradients are important to ecosystem function.

Coastal, freshwater and terrestrial habitats are linked through vectors of invasion from exotic species.

VISION for next 50 Years

Nelson's coastal and marine environments have fully functioning indigenous ecosystems where ecosystem health and productivity and diversity are maximised while minimising adverse human impacts. We better understand ecosystem functioning and key stressors and have acted wisely to manage peoples' use of the coastal and marine environments. The ecosystem services provided to people by coastal and marine environments are sustained, wisely used and valued. Our marine environment is a valued part of the local food basket. Natural terrestrial coastal margins are restored and natural coastal vegetation is re-established over at least 10% of the length of our coastal lands. The community takes responsibility for protecting and enhancing coastal and marine ecosystems. Biodiversity valued by tangata whenua iwi is restored and enhanced. Kaitiaki roles are recognised and respected. Threatened species are sustained while damaging pests are controlled. Significant biodiversity resources in the coastal and marine environments are legally protected. Ongoing monitoring occurs to assess progress and regular information is provided on this data to the community.

In setting priorities for action the Partners take into account:

1. **Biodiversity value.**
2. **Capacity of actions** to halt decline or restore biodiversity value.
3. **Cost.**
4. **Risk** that the action might fail, or might produce unintended adverse consequences.
5. **Synergies** between the work of partners.
6. **Contribution** to other ecosystems.
7. **Capacity to create community awareness and commitment.**
8. **Actions** that resolve **bottlenecks** where one action opens up opportunity for many parties.
9. **Existing community action** where institutional support can build on what is already happening.

These principles also apply to establishing priorities between actions in the three Biodiversity Action Plans.¹

Priority Joint Action of the Biodiversity Partners on Coastal Marine Environment & Habitat

Prepare an **integrated Waimea Inlet strategic plan**. This strategy would establish a framework for managing the effects of uses and activities that impact upon biodiversity values in Waimea Inlet. The strategic plan would encourage the community to work together to sustain its marine environment using both regulatory and non-regulatory approaches.

In parallel with the Waimea planning, leading stakeholders and institutions to develop **integrated management of greater Tasman Bay** in a way that sustains or enhances its biological diversity and protects **sensitive habitats, communities and species**.

Immediately identify and begin correcting **impediments to the natural flow** of water into and through the coastal environment including reviewing the need for all tidal flap gates and ensuring consents are applied for those that are found to be unauthorised.

Priority Joint Action of the Biodiversity Partners on Coastal Marine Leadership, Community Knowledge and Activity

Improving **community knowledge** of coastal and marine environments and developing understanding and commitment to their protection.

Priority Joint Action of the Biodiversity Partners on Coastal Marine Research & Monitoring

Marine information - collating, ordering and analysing information about Nelson marine biodiversity to enable effective long term management; developing a **memorandum of understanding** with marine industries (including aquaculture and fisheries) on data sharing to release information on benthic habitats currently withheld as commercially sensitive.

Review existing coverage and undertake **surveys of benthic marine habitats** in Tasman Bay mapping both biodiversity hot spots and risk zones.

Reduce land based pollution of the sea by:

- Obtaining information about land use activities across Tasman Bay catchments to identify where **sediment** is coming from and estimate sediment accumulation rates as a basis for a review of land use management practices.
- Continued assessment of **contaminated land impacts** on marine environments.
- **Assessing all urban stormwater** and adopt low impact design for sustainable urban drainage systems (e.g. rain gardens, wetlands, swales, rainwater collection, detention ponds).

Complete projections for **sea level rise** and an inventory of biodiversity resources at risk as a basis for future planning of staged coastal retreat for sea level rise with biodiversity objectives included. For example: reducing land use in habitats that are expected to gradually be returned to tidal inundation.

¹Also depends on effective implementation of the Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Strategy, Fisheries Plans and Resource Management Act Plans.